

A Family-Integrated Church (Part 2)

2 John

- I. (Last week)
- II. This book illustrates how even less than ideal homes are valued in God's covenant community.**
- A. It was a less than ideal home (vv. 1,4-6)
 - B. Yet this family was valued by the elder (v. 1)
 - 1. Valued enough for a busy man to write a letter to her and to her children
 - 2. John values her leadership in the home ("lady" = kuria or feminine for lord) enough to respect her family's unique role in the church (see last week's outline).
 - 3. John affirms his love for her and for her children and makes them feel welcome.
 - C. This less than ideal family was valued by all in the church (v. 1)
 - D. A family integrated church is valued because these saints are driven more by truth than they are by feelings, convenience or comfort (v. 2)
- III. The ministry responsibilities of this family-integrated church toward her family**
- A. Communicate (2 John)
 - B. Admit believers and their children into the kingdom (v. 1)
 - C. Give oversight (v. 1)
 - D. Love in truth and affirm this love (v. 1)
 - E. Maintain a positive and optimistic atmosphere (vv. 3-4)
 - 1. Experiencing and living God's grace (v. 3)
 - 2. Experiencing and living God's mercy (v. 3)
 - 3. Experiencing and living God's peace (v. 3)
 - 4. Doing so in truth and love (v. 3)
 - 5. Encouraging people to keep looking up (v. 3)
 - 6. Acknowledging accomplishments (v. 4)
 - 7. Showing patience with gradual growth (vv. 5-6)
 - F. Exhort one another from God's Word (vv. 5-11)
 - G. Exercise church discipline (v. 7) (This is exercising the "keys of the kingdom" in the reverse way of point B.)
 - H. Warn of heresy and preach truth (vv. 7-9,2ff)
 - I. Protect the family from spiritual dangers (vv. 7-11)
 - J. Maintain antithesis (vv. 6-11)
 - K. Fellowship (v. 12-13)
- IV. The ministry responsibilities of this 'challenged' family toward the family-integrated church**
- A. To be under (and responding to) the ministries mentioned in the previous point. All of us need accountability for our own protection.
 - B. Bring the children into covenant membership (v. 1)
 - C. Reciprocate the love and the positive atmosphere mentioned above (cf the "us" in vv. 2,3)
 - D. Experience God's grace and presence (v. 3)
 - E. Take parenting seriously (vv. 4-6)
 - F. Submit to exhortation, rebuke and correction (vv. 4-11)
 - G. Commit the family to have love for the home (v. 1), within the home (v. 3) and between homes (v. 13, 5,6).
 - H. Pursue holiness (v. 6)
 - I. Make sure that your homes are trained in orthodox doctrine (vv. 7-10)
 - 1. Doctrinal Confession (v. 7)
 - 2. Sincere Confession (v. 8)
 - 3. Experienced Confession (v. 9)
 - 4. Loyal Confession (vv. 10-11)
 - J. Show discernment, hospitality, communication (v. 10-12)